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Recommendations

The Water Policy Interim Committee is considering the following options related to SJ2 and its evaluation of permits for waterway projects and state assumption of federal Section 404 permits:

1. Issue this report as a conclusion to the SJ2 study.
2. Issue this report and direct the Department of Environmental Quality to apply for a federal Wetland Program Development Grant in 2018 to further explore state assumption of federal Section 404 program.
3. Issue this report and recommend federal Section 404 program as an area of study for the 2017-18 WPIC.
4. Issue this report and preintroduce a committee bill, asking the Legislative Council to again designate an interim committee study of federal Section 404 program.
5. Issue this report and draft legislation directing the DEQ to assume the federal Section 404 program, assess fees for 404 permits, and establish a work-sharing agreement with the state's 58 conservation districts.